Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0008] with the following amended paragraph:

[0008] ~~Accordingly, it is an object of~~ In accordance with an aspect of the present invention ~~to provide~~ an absorptive product can be provided, such as an incontinence pad, a sanitary napkin or the like which can form and hold a proper stereoscopic shape so as to be properly fitted on a complicated three-dimensional shape of the body of a user for preventing leaking of an evacuated body fluid or the like to the outside.

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] The above-mentioned ~~object can be achieved, according to the first invention, by an~~ absorptive product ~~which includes~~ can include a back sheet which has a shape elongated in one direction and prevents the permeation of liquid, a liquid permeable surface material which is arranged on a surface side which is brought into contact with a body, and an absorbent which is arranged between the back sheet and the surface material and absorbs and holds the liquid which permeates the surface material, wherein the absorptive product includes a resilient body which is fixed at least to the absorbent side in a center region in the lateral direction of the product and imparts a contracting force with respect to the arrangement direction, and slits which are formed in the absorbent in the vicinity of a region on which the contracting operation of the resilient body acts.

Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following amended paragraph:

[0010] ~~According to the constitution of the first invention, the~~ The absorptive product ~~of the present invention has~~ can have the basic shape which is elongated in one direction by stacking and fixing a plurality of sheet-like materials. The back sheet prevents the permeation of the liquid. The surface material is the liquid-permeable material which is arranged on the side which is brought into contact with the body. The absorbent is arranged between the back sheet and the surface material and absorbs and holds the liquid which permeates the surface material.

Please replace paragraph [0011] with the following amended paragraph:

[0011] Further, ~~according to the present invention,~~ the stereoscopic shape which conforms to the body of the user is formed and held using the resilient body. That is, the resilient body is, in the stacked structure which constitutes the product, particularly fixed to the absorbent side to impart the contracting force mainly to the absorbent to form the stereoscopic shape. In this case, the absorbent has a relatively large thickness, is hardly deformed and, further, is liable to easily receive the influence attributed to the absorption of the body fluid. By forming the slits in the absorbent, the contracting force of the resilient body acts as a deformation force to deform the absorbent such that the slit portions of the absorbent are bent and hence, the stereoscopic shape can be effectively formed and the formed shape can be maintained. Particularly, by arranging the resilient body at the center region in the lateral direction of the product, it is possible to provide the shape which conforms to a complicated shape of human body in the vicinity of a groin of the user. Accordingly, even when the body of the user is moved, the absorptive product

can be deformed following the movement of the body and hence, leaking of liquid or the like can be surely prevented.

Please replace paragraph [0012] with the following amended paragraph:

[0012] ~~The second invention is, in the constitution of the first invention, characterized in that~~ In accordance with another embodiment of the invention, the resilient body is arranged such that the resilient body imparts the contracting force to the absorbent mainly along the longitudinal direction of the product, and the slits are respectively arranged at both sides with respect to the resilient body in the lateral direction of the product.

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph:

[0013] According to the ~~constitution of the second invention~~ above described embodiment, the resilient body is arranged along the longitudinal direction of the product. Further, bent portions are formed on the material which constitutes the product at the slit forming portions which are arranged on both sides of the resilient body, and a portion to which the resilient body is fixed is effectively formed into a projecting shape due to the contracting force of the resilient body. Particularly, by forming the slits on both sides of the resilient body which are arranged outside the resilient body, the slits do not receive the influence of an adhesive agent such as a hot-melt which is attached to the resilient body and hence, the deformation is surely enhanced.

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] ~~The third invention is, in the constitution of the second invention, characterized in that~~ In accordance with another embodiment of the invention, the slits have at least one longitudinal end sides thereof parted away from the resilient body.

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] According to the ~~constitution of the third invention~~ above described embodiment, the slits are not formed in parallel to each other in the longitudinal direction of the product and at least one longitudinal end sides thereof are parted away from the resilient body and hence, it is possible to constitute the shape which conforms to the complicated shape of the human body. Further, at the time of forming the slits using a roller which forms a cutting blade on an outer periphery thereof in manufacturing steps, it is possible to obviate a case that a force is imparted to a limited portion of the roller and hence, it is possible to effectively prevent damage on the roller for forming the slits.

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] ~~The fourth invention is, in the constitution of the second invention or the third invention, characterized in that~~ In accordance with another embodiment of the invention, the slits are formed on both sides of the resilient body such that one slit is formed on each side in symmetry and both slits have center portions thereof in the longitudinal direction thereof arranged close to each other and other portions thereof gradually parted away corresponding to the distance from the center portions.

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] According to ~~the constitution of the fourth invention~~ the above described embodiment, when the slit portions which receive the contracting force of the resilient body are bent, the deformed region is configured such that a gentle curved surface where the portion to which the

resilient body is fixed projects is formed and the curved surface is gradually flared downwardly whereby it is possible to easily form the shape which projects the center portion of the resilient body and to form the proper stereoscopic shape.

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] ~~The fifth invention is, in the constitution of any one of the first invention to the fourth invention, characterized in that~~ In accordance with another embodiment of the invention, the resilient body is formed of a film-like resilient body having a given width which imparts a contracting force mainly in the longitudinal direction.

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] According to the ~~constitution of the fifth invention~~ above described embodiment, compared to a case in which a linear rubber or the like is used as the resilient body, since the resilient body has the given width, the resilient body is brought into contact with a skin of the user who wears the absorptive product in a planar state whereby no undesired stimulus is given to the user thus reducing the discomfort which the user feels at the time of wearing the absorptive product. Further, the resilient body can exhibit the strong contracting force compared to the case in which the linear rubber or the like is used as the resilient body and hence, it is possible to impart the force sufficient to deform the absorbent which constitutes the fixed side.

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following amended paragraph:

[0020] ~~The sixth invention is, in the constitution of any one of the first invention to the fifth invention, characterized in that~~ In accordance with another embodiment of the invention, the

absorbent is formed by stacking a first absorbent layer having high liquid diffusivity of the absorbed liquid and a second absorbent layer having high liquid holding property of the absorbed liquid, the resilient body is fixed to the second absorbent layer, and the above-mentioned slits are formed in the second absorbent layer.

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

[0021] According to the ~~constitution of the sixth invention~~ above described embodiment, with the provision of at least two layers constituted of the first absorbent layer having high liquid diffusivity of the liquid and the second absorbent layer having high liquid holding property of the liquid, the absorptive product exhibits the excellent function that the absorptive product can speedily absorb, diffuse and hold the evacuated liquid component. Here, when the second absorbent layer is formed of a polymer sheet or the like, it is difficult to deform the second absorbent layer because it is relatively hard. However, by forming the slits in the second absorbent layer, the second absorbent layer becomes easily deformable and hence, the stereoscopic shape can be surely formed.

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

[0022] ~~The seventh invention is, in the constitution of the sixth invention, characterized in that~~ In accordance with another embodiment of the invention, a notched portion is formed in the first absorbent layer corresponding to a position where the resilient body is formed.

Please replace paragraph [0023] with the following amended paragraph:

[0023] According to the ~~constitution of the seventh invention~~ above described embodiment, with respect to the region which is deformed by imparting of the contracting force of the resilient body, by removing a portion of the first absorbent layer having a relatively large thickness with the formation of the notched portion, it is possible to surely perform the deformation of the resilient body for forming the stereoscopic shape.

Please replace paragraph [0039] with the following amended paragraph:

[0039] Fig. 1 to Fig. 4 show an absorptive product according to the first embodiment of the present invention and show the constitution of an incontinence pad as one example of the absorptive product. In this embodiment, although the explanation is made in view of an example in which principles of the present invention ~~is~~ are applied to the incontinence pad which represents the absorptive product, the principles of the present invention ~~is~~ can be applicable to a sanitary napkin or a diaper using the same structure by merely slightly changing the size of the whole structure. Here, Fig. 1 is a schematic perspective view of the incontinence pad 20 as viewed from a front side. In the drawing, a side which is indicated by "FRONT" constitutes a front side of a body when a user wears the incontinence pad 20 (the same interpretation being applicable to other drawings). Fig. 2 is a schematic plan view of the incontinence pad 20 shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a schematic cross-sectional view taken along a line A-A in Fig. 2 and Fig. 4 is a schematic cross-sectional view taken along a line B-B in Fig. 2.

Please replace paragraph [0048] with the following amended paragraph:

[0048] The first absorbent layer 23 constitutes a portion of the absorbent of this embodiment and mainly possesses the property to rapidly diffuse the absorbed liquid and, thereafter, to hold

the absorbed liquid. The first absorbent layer 23 is referred to as a so-called "mat" material and ~~is preferably~~ can be formed of, for example, a pulp absorbent which is formed by mixing polymer which constitutes an absorbing material into pulp, a pulp absorbent which is formed by scattering the polymer into pulp or polymer or the like. Here, the pulp is an aggregate of cellulose fibers which are obtained by extracting after mechanically or chemically processing timbers, for example. In a state that a relatively large number of pores are present among fibers, the pulp promotes the diffusion of the absorbed liquid. Further, the pulp holds a large amount of polymer and hence, the volume in the thickness direction is increased whereby the absorbing capacity of the liquid can be increased.

Please replace paragraph [0049] with the following amended paragraph:

[0049] Since the center surface material 28 is directly brought into contact with the skin of the user, a material suitable for the center surface material 28 is selected by considering that the material feels soft without excessively damaging the skin. The center surface material 28 is also referred to as an inner sheet, a top sheet or the like. As fibers of the material which are suitable for the permeation of liquid, particularly for the rapid permeation of the liquid component, for example, various natural fibers, synthetic fibers or the combination of these fibers can be selected. For example, as the synthetic fibers, fibers which use polyester or polypropylene fibers as a base material and are processed to increase the liquid permeability can be used ~~are preferable~~. For example, when the center surface material 28 is formed of nonwoven fabric, for example, it is possible to adopt wet nonwoven fabric (paper, tissue, hydro-span (product of Dexter Ltd.), chemical-bond (or resin-bond), thermal-bond (emboss, air-through), air-laid, span-lace, span-bond, melt-blown, needle punching, stitch-bond, SM nonwoven fabric (stacked body

of span-bond and melt-blown) which is formed by combining span-bond and melt-blown nonwoven fabrics, SMS nonwoven fabric (stacked body of span-bond, melt-blown and span-bond) and the like. Among nonwoven fabrics, as the material of the center surface material 28, it ~~is particularly preferable~~ may be helpful in certain applications to use the thermal bond, the span-bond, and the span lacing.

Please replace paragraph [0050] with the following amended paragraph:

[0050] Further, in this embodiment, on the side which is brought into contact with the user's body, a sub layer 24 ~~is preferably~~ can be formed between the center surface material 28 and the tissue 27. The sub layer 24 is formed of bulky nonwoven fabric (having a large thickness and high porosity) which is integrally formed using chemical fibers such as polypropylene, polyethylene, polyester or the like, for example. Further, in a state that the center surface material 28 is overlapped to the sub layer 24, by applying minute emboss forming (pin emboss) to both nonwoven fabrics constituted of the center surface material 28 and the sub layer 24 as indicated by symbol P in a scattered manner in Fig. 1, a diffusion sheet is formed. By providing the diffusion sheet, the incontinence pad 20 can perform the function of rapidly diffusing the liquid which permeates the center surface material 28 to the first absorbent layer 23 side and, further, the function of preventing the liquid or the like which is absorbed by the first absorbent layer 23 from moving toward the body side.

Please replace paragraph [0056] with the following amended paragraph:

[0056] At the center of the second stacked body 22, a second absorbent layer 33 is arranged. The second absorbent layer 33 is arranged outside the first stacked body 21 which is provided with the first absorbent layer 23 and plays a role of absorbing and holding the liquid or the like which the first absorbent layer 23 cannot absorb and hold. Accordingly, the second absorbent layer 33 has the high absorbed-liquid holding property and also has the relatively thin non-bulky configuration. As this second absorbent layer 33, for example, pulp in a single form or, if necessary, a pulp absorbent which is formed by mixing polymer which constitutes an absorbing material in pulp or by scattering the polymer in the pulp can be used. However, it ~~is particularly preferable~~ may be helpful in certain applications to use a polymer sheet which is formed in a sheet form by arranging polymer with high density between sheets made of pulp or the like. Here, the pulp is a material having a small thickness which is obtained by densely bonding an aggregate of cellulose fibers which are obtained by extracting after mechanically or chemically processing timbers using an adhesive agent or the like, for example. Accordingly, the second absorbent layer 33 has the high hardness, the high rigidity and the high shape holding property compared to the first absorbent layer 23.

Please replace paragraph [0066] with the following amended paragraph:

[0066] Although the number of the slits 46, 46 formed in the second absorbent layer 33 may be one, it is ~~preferable~~ possible to form two slits 46, 46 as shown in the drawing.

Please replace paragraph [0094] with the following amended paragraph:

[0094] Accordingly, the resilient body 45 is laminated to the nonwoven fabric 61 whose rigidity is decreased to an extent that the nonwoven fabric 61 does not influence the contracting force of the resilient body 45 and, further, the nonwoven fabric 61 having a large area is laminated to the second absorbent layer 33 and hence, the contracting force of the resilient body 45 is focused on a small area of the second absorbent layer 33 whereby the peeling of the surface layer which is liable to be easily peeled can be effectively prevented. Here, slits equal to the slits formed in the second absorbent layer 33 may be also formed in the nonwoven fabric 61. Further, the resilient body 45 may be arranged such that a plurality of linear rubbers are formed in parallel or the nonwoven fabric 61 may be arranged such that the contracting force of the resilient body 45 acts in the lateral direction T different from the direction L. Other manner of operation and advantageous effects ~~of the present invention are~~ can be equal to those of the first embodiment.

Please replace paragraph [0100] with the following amended paragraph:

[0100] As has been explained heretofore, principles of the present invention can be ~~is~~ applicable to the disposable diaper, the sanitary napkin, the incontinence pad or the like, for example, and can be ~~preferably~~ used for the absorptive product for absorbing and holding the body fluid such as urine and the manufacturing method of the absorptive product.